

REMARKS

Claims 2, 6-14, 17-33 and 37-39 were pending prior to this Response, with claims 18-20 and 24-33 having been withdrawn from further consideration. Applicants note that claim 21 was incorrectly indicated as being withdrawn on page 1 of the Office Action. The Office indicated that claims 2, 6-14, 17, 38 and 39 are allowable as written. (Office Action, page 3, item 7). By the present communication, claims 40-47 have been added, claims 18-20 and 24-33 have been canceled, and claims 21 and 37 have been amended to recite Applicants' invention with greater particularity. The amendments do not raise any issues of new matter and the amended claims do not present new issues requiring further consideration or search. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments set forth in this response under 37 C.F.R. §1.116. Thus, upon entry of the present amendment, claims 2, 6-14, 17, 21-23, and 37-47 will be pending in this application.

Objections to the Specification

Applicants respectfully traverse the objection of the specification under 37 C.F.R. §1.77 as allegedly failing to include sequence identifiers. Applicants have amended the specification to include the appropriate sequence identifier in the description of Figure 4A, as suggested. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Objections to the Claims

Applicants respectfully traverse the objection of claims 21-23, 34, 35 and 37 as allegedly reciting an improper Markush Group. Applicants note that claims 34 and 35 were canceled without prejudice in the response filed November 21, 2006, rendering the objection moot as to those claims. Without acquiescing to the reasoning offered by the Office, and in order to expedite prosecution of the instant application, Applicants have amended claims 21 and 37 to each recite a single component, and new claims 40-47 have been added to pursue the canceled components. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

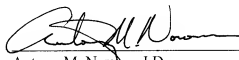
Conclusion

In summary, for the reasons set forth herein, Applicants submit that the claims clearly and patentably define the invention and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and pass the application to allowance. If the Examiner would like to discuss any of the issues raised in the Office Action, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned so that a prompt disposition of this application can be achieved.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \$760.00 as payment for the Petition for Three-Month Extension of Time fee (\$510.00) and Notice of Appeal fee (\$250.00) to Deposit Account No. 07-1896. Additionally, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees that may be due in connection with the filing of this paper, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-1896.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 23, 2007



Antony M. Novom, J.D.
Reg. No. 45,517
Telephone No.: (858) 638-6641
Facsimile No.: (858) 677-1465

DLA PIPER US LLP
4365 Executive Drive, Suite 1100
San Diego, California 92121-2133
USPTO CUSTOMER NUMBER 28213